15 MAY 1928
MEDICAL DEPT.

# Pickering Urban District Council.

## Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

## *YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1925.*

*To the Chairman and Members of the Pickering Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Report on the health and sanitary conditions of your area for the year ending December 31st, 1925.

**The Area** of your district covers 15,625 acres, a portion being unenclosed Moorland, some five to eight miles away. The chief Industry is Agriculture. Owing to the variety of scenery combined with the bracing moorland air many visitors are attracted during the spring, summer and autumn months.

**The Population** of the district is estimated to be 3,380, this is 19 less than the 1924 estimate. The estimated population in 1920 was 3,480, this gives a decrease of exactly 100 in the five years 1920—1925.

**The Rainfall** in Pickering for the last five years is as follows :

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1921 | ... | 20·35 inches ; rain falling on | | 188 days. |
| 1922 | ... | 29·86 | „ „ | 238 „ |
| 1923 | ... | 34·45 | „ „ | 222 „ |
| 1924 | ... | 29·23 | „ „ | 209 „ |
| 1925 | ... | 27·87 | „ „ | 187 „ |

This is about the average rainfall for the district. June and July were dry and sunny months. August was a wet month having the heaviest monthly fall for the year. The average rainfall in Pickering for the last thirty-seven years being 26·78 inches per annum.

The last two months of the year were remarkable for the heavy snowfalls and continuous frosts.

**The number of Births** registered in the district during the year 1925 is 59, a decrease of 6 on last year, showing a birth-rate 17·4 per thousand—28 being boys and 31 girls. The average birth-rate for England and Wales being 18·3.

Three births were transferred, as the mothers' usual residence was not in your district

Three of these births were illegitimate, and all girls.

One birth took place in the Institution.

**The number of Deaths** registered in the district during the year 1925 is 59, viz. 28 males and 31 females. One being transferred to another district, eight into this district.

This is an increase of 4 on 1924, showing a death-rate of 17·4 per thousand. The average death-rate for England and Wales being 12·2.

In 1920 there were 81 births and 50 deaths.

In 1925 there were 59 births and 59 deaths.

These figures point to a declining birth-rate.

In studying these figures due consideration must be given to the removal from your area of the younger portion of your population to the industrial centres and elsewhere.

The number of deaths taking place in the Institution for the year ending 31st December, 1925 was 1, a male.

**The Chief Causes of Death** were Disease of Heart, Blood Vessels and Cancer.

Twenty-nine deaths took place in persons over 70 years of age ; 12 males and 5 females. Of these 29 deaths 12 were over 80 years : 5 males and 7 females.

One Inquest was held.

The weekly average number of inmates in the Institution was 40.

**Five Deaths** took place in **children under one year of age,** one of these being an illegitimate child. Causes were prematurity, convulsions and Haemophilia Neonatorum.

These deaths under one year have a rate of 84·7 per thousand births.

That of England and Wales being 75 per thousand births.

| | 1914 | 1915 | 1916 | 1917 | 1918 | 1919 | 1920 | 1921 | 1922 | 1923 | 1924 | 1925 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Births in the Urban District | 71 | 65 | 60 | 61 | 60 | 57 | 80 | 63 | 69 | 69 | 65 | 59 |
| Birth Rate per 1,000 | 19·69 | 17·69 | 17·31 | 17·95 | 17·83 | 16·35 | 20·04 | 18·03 | 20·15 | 20·26 | 18 8 | 17·4 |
| Deaths under one year | 9 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 11 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 5 |
| Rate per 1,000 births | 126·7 | 15·3 | 66·66 | 81·19 | 133·3 | 105·1 | 61·7 | 174·6 | 86·1 | 43·5 | 92·3 | 84·7 |

**Milk Supply**—I here repeat last years statement, viz.: "The demand for a better supply of good milk appears to be encouraging the trade. The action of the Yorkshire Agricultural Society in establishing the first Yorkshire Clean Milk Competition should have fruitful results. A pamphlet published by them on 'Clean Milk in Yorkshire' should be of interest to both producers and consumers. Copies may be obtained from me or from the Yorkshire Agricultural Society, 3 Blake Street, York."

There is much room for improvement in your Milk supply.

The system of **Sewage Disposal** is the same as mentioned in my previous Reports.

There is still flooding in Eastgate during and after heavy rainfall. This is due, as has been pointed out before, to an inadequate sized piping.

**Scavenging.**—The removal and disposal of house refuse, ash pits and privies is undertaken by the Council's workmen and local farmers. There is now a more complete removal weekly of house refuse.

There are 721 Privies, 177 W.C.'s, and 5 moveable. There have been 8 conversions into W.C.'s during the year.

There were four inspections of places where food is prepared.

There are **6 Slaughter Houses.**

Disinfection and Disinfestation are arranged for by the free supply of Disinfectants, and by fumigation carried out by your Sanitary Inspector.

No action has been taken by the Local Authority under the "Sale of Food and Drugs Act" and the "Milk and Cream Regulations."

**Housing.**—The number of New Houses erected during the year is 2. The number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects is 117.

The number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit for human habitation in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority and its Officers is 4.

The number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied is 6.

There were no proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the "Housing and Town Planning Act" of 1909.

There is a qualified Nurse holding a Midwife's Certificate provided by the local Nursing Association which is a purely voluntary Association.

There is a Child Welfare Centre established by voluntary effort. The District Nurse acts on behalf of the North Riding County Council, acting as School Nurse.

There are no Hospitals, nor is there any provision for the isolation of cases of infectious Diseases.

There is in your district a house for homeless children

There are no Ambulance facilities whatever for the conveyance of sick or injured persons.

Your **Water Supply** is satisfactory.

Three cases of **Notifiable Disease** were recorded.

Tuberculosis ... 1 Enteric ... 1 Encephalitis Lithargica ... 1

Your Sanitary Inspector has made **117 Visits of Inspection** during the year.

Four notices to abate nuisances have been delivered by the Sanitary Authority.

To sum up one may safely say that progress has been made during the last five years. We now have :—

*a* Town Offices and large Public Hall.

*b* Public Slipper Baths (hot and cold), and Swimming Bath.

*c* Child Welfare Centre.

*d* More efficient removal of house refuse.

*e* Roads with less dust and dirt.

*I am, Gentlemen,*

*Your obedient servant.*

JOHN L. KIRK,

M.O.H.

April, 1926.